

SCH. CONSTELLATION SAVED LIVES.

Went to Rescue of Herring Catchers in Teeth of Gale.

The heroism of the hardy fishermen on board the auxiliary schooner Constellation, Capt. Reuben Cameron, of this port, was the only thing that prevented a great loss of life at Bay of Islands in the blizzard that swept the Newfoundland coast from Friday to Monday. As it was, two lives were lost, and the damage to boats and fishing gear was very heavy. None of the Gloucester craft at Bay of Islands or Bonne Bay were damaged.

As stated in the Times of yesterday, the gale, instead of occurring this week, happened the latter part of last week and was very severe indeed. Advices from Curling state that the storm was a combination of wind of hurricane violence, blinding snow and biting frost. The gale was unusually severe in the vicinity of Bay of Islands, where the Gloucester vessels are engaged in the frozen herring industry. Two men perished in the North Arm of the Bay of Islands while fishing for herring. Their boat was smashed on the rocks, and

the men had no chance whatever for life in the terrific seas which broke upon the ledges.

Thirty other boats, carrying in all about a hundred men, were caught in the storm in the North Arm. The herring nets and other fishing gear had to be thrown overboard, and the fishermen had a difficult task in reaching shore alive.

The storm began on Friday noon, the wind blowing a gale from the north-east, with the weather intensely cold. The following day the wind chopped to northwest, continuing to blow with hurricane force until Monday.

One fishing boat was swept on the rocks at Barber's Head. No person could live in the sea that was running. The Constellation which is equipped with gasoline auxiliary power, got under way in the fiercest of the gale and rescued the occupants of this craft and also took off the crews of a number of craft that were helpless in the gale.

The two men who are known to have perished in the storm were brothers named White, who lived at Trout river.

TWO FROZEN CARGOES ON WAY HOME.

Herring Reported Scarce at Bay of Islands and Bonne Bay.

Advices this morning from the herring haunts on the Newfoundland treaty coast are to the effect that there is little doing at Bay of Islands and but few herring have been hauled the past three days.

Only a few herring were taken at Bonne Bay yesterday. The frost did not remain long in evidence and the vessels fitted with pans and ice and salt for freezing are at work with that apparatus securing their frozen cargoes.

No recent sailings are reported from Bay of Islands, but at Bonne Bay the

following vessels have secured salted cargoes and have sailed, or are ready to sail for home: schs. Ellen C. Burke, Helen G. Wells, Madonna, Smuggler and Georgie Campbell of this port and schs. William Matheson and Hiram Lowell of Bucksport.

Schs. Harry A. Nickerson and Corsair have also sailed from Bonne Bay for home, with frozen herring cargoes. The Corsair's cargo is pan frozen and most of it was secured at Bay of Islands, the vessel shifting around to Bonne Bay, when herring got scarce at the former place, to finish up.

At Bay of Islands, the Humber is frozen over and several crafts are pretty well along with their salted cargoes.

Dec. 23.

Southern Fisheries Notes.

The opening of the Spanish mackerel season at Fort Pierce, Fla., was auspicious, Walter Petersen's crew from St. Lucie, Fla., bringing in 17,000 pounds of fish for Ricou & O'Brien. One boat, 18 feet long, operated by two men, had 5400 pounds, which is said to be the largest catch on record for one boat at Fort Pierce. Many similar catches were made daily.

The fishing sch. Hatteras arrived at Galveston, Texas, a few days ago, having on board 31,000 pounds of red snappers. The smack Aloah had 15,000 pounds of the same species of fish.

While the fishing smack Dorothy, of the E. E. Saunders Co., was attempting to get alongside the wharf at Pensacola, a few days ago, she grounded. She was hauled off by the steamer Seminole and found to be uninjured.

Eleven fishing smacks reached Pensacola last week with catches of 137,000 pounds of red snappers and 36,000 pounds of groupers.

Dec. 23.

St. John's, N. F., Fish Market.

The price of fish, says the Trade Review, is nominally the same as when last quoted, but the market has been keener during the week, and, in some instances, higher figures were given. Several sales have been made at \$7 for prime, dry, large lots, and we hear of an instance of \$7.10. These prices are not general, however, and all transactions open at \$6.80 for large and \$5.80 for small merchantable and Madeira. There is no change in the prices of the lower grades. Seven dollars a quintal is an exceptional price, and, as well as we can ascertain, it is the largest figure ever given for codfish in the commercial history of Newfoundland. Short Labrador catch, and the activity of the Americans on the west and south coasts, are factors that count most in making high prices.

Lobsters From the Provinces.

The second shipment of lobsters from the provinces came yesterday to Boston on the Yarmouth steamer. The shipment is double the first in quantity, and the dealers hope for an increase in quantity at each shipment for some time. Yesterday morning there were 694 crates of live lobsters on the steamer, and the Halifax steamer, due today, is billed to bring 34 crates.

Large shipments of eels are coming from the provinces now, both by rail and steamer, and fishermen along the American coast are sending quantities. There is a big trade in eels at the holiday season among people from European countries, and the dealers have no difficulty in selling all they can get.

Dec. 23.

TWO ARRIVALS THIS FORENOON.

SCH. COLONIAL HAS SALT COD AND SCH. ARTHUR JAMES A CARGO OF SALT HERRING.

The lamented Dan Daly's well remembered remark, "same old story—nothing new," applies to the harbor front this morning, as far forth as arrivals since last report are concerned, for during the night nothing which looked like a trip of fish came in to disturb the serenity of the unruffled waters on which a refulgent December moon shone brilliantly.

During the forenoon two crafts arrived with fish, sch. Colonial, which landed a small catch of halibut at Portland the first of the week, coming home to fit out again and bringing 9000 pounds of salt cod. Sch. Arthur James, from Bay of Islands, N. F., with a full cargo of salt herring and whose arrival has been expected for the past few days, also arrived after a hard passage. She was obliged to put in at Canso, N. S., for harbor a week ago Thursday on account of bad weather and then after coming out also encountered more bad weather and head winds.

Today's Arrivals and Receipts.

The arrivals and receipts in detail are:

Sch. Colonial, via Portland, 9000 lbs. salt cod.

Sch. Arthur James, Bay of Islands, N. F., 1500 bbls. salt herring.

The arrivals today are:

Sch. Emily Cooney, via Boston.

Sch. Thalia, shore.

Sch. Moanani, via Boston.

Sch. Maud F. Silva, via Boston.

Vessels Sailed.

Sch. Rita A. Viator, haddocking.

Sch. Matthew S. Greer, haddocking.

Sch. Edith Silveria, haddocking.

Sch. Hattie F. Knowlton, haddocking.

Today's Fish Market.

Bay of Islands salt herring, \$4.50 per bbl., Bonne Bay salt herring \$3.75 per bbl., pickled herring \$5 per bbl.

Eastern deck handline salt cod, \$5.55 per cwt.; for large \$5 for mediums and \$5 for snappers.

Bank halibut 12 cts. per lb. for white, 11 cts. for gray, with the heads on.

Salt cusk, large, \$2.50 per cwt.; medium, \$2.

Salt haddock, \$2 per cwt.

Salt hake, \$2 per cwt.

Salt pollock, \$2 per cwt.

Splitting prices for fresh fish:

Codfish, large, \$2.50 per cwt.; medium, \$1.80; snappers, 80c.

Cusk, large, \$1.75 per cwt.; medium \$1.30; snappers, 50c.

Haddock, \$1.10 per cwt.; hake, \$1.30 per cwt.; dressed pollock, \$1.20 per cwt.; round pollock, \$1.15 per cwt.

Georges handline salt cod, \$5.25 for large and \$4.75 for medium.

Fresh round pollock, \$1.20 per cwt.; gutted \$1.30.

Dec. 23.

Portland Fish Notes.

More fish were landed here Wednesday by members of the local fleet and all the different varieties brought good prices. Sch. Katie L. Palmer led the fleet with a trip of 18,000 for the F. S. Willard Co. Other fares were the Top-sail Girl with 14,000; Lizzie May, 3000 and Mineola, 3000 for the Commercial wharf dealers.

Steamer Elthier, which has been fishing out of Gloucester the past six weeks catching pollock, arrived back here Wednesday. The master reports on the passage down from Cape Porpoise they had a hard time in getting here on account of the thick snow storm and northeast gale, but succeeded in making port without damage.

Judging from the reports brought in by the fishermen, bluebacks are proving the ideal bait these days for landing the ground fish. The Portland Cold Storage Co., laid in a good supply during the fall and this is being drawn on for bait. Many of the skippers attribute their good luck to the high quality of the bait.

While it snowed and snowed hard on land Wednesday, there was very little of the fleecy substance on the water. According to the skippers of several fishing vessels that came in here, it was raining outside the harbor. A heavy ground swell was running that made it difficult to get about especially in view of the fact that there was very little wind blowing. The fishermen gave it as their opinion that rain will follow the snow on land.

FISH BRING GOOD PRICES.

DESPITE THE FACT THAT CHRISTMAS IS ONLY TWO DAYS AWAY.

Considering that Christmas is but two days away, the T wharf dealers are certainly paying fine prices for fish. Time was, and not too long ago either, when a fare of fresh fish at T wharf on Christmas week wouldn't bring much of a figure, but this morning, with 13 trips in, and three of those off shores and good sized ones, haddock are bringing \$3.50 to \$4.25, large cod \$3.10 to \$3.75, hake \$2.60 to \$5 and pollock \$2.60 to \$2.75.

The off shore vessels in are schs. Manhasset, Lillian and Elmer E. Gray, these crafts having from 32,000 to 66,000 pounds, the Lillian having the latter amount.

Four of the pollockers have from 3000 to 10,000 pounds and the market boats have just ordinary fares.

Boston Arrivals.

The arrivals and receipts in detail are:

- Warren M. Goodspeed, 5000 haddock, 1000 cod, 2000 hake.
 - Sch. Manhasset, 16,000 haddock, 16,000 cod.
 - Sch. Elmer E. Gray, 30,000 haddock, 10,000 cod, 5000 cusk.
 - Sch. James and Esther, 9000 pollock.
 - Sch. Marguerite Haskins, 4000 pollock.
 - Sch. Thomas Brundage, 10,000 pollock.
 - Sch. Mabel Bryson, 3000 pollock.
 - Sch. Rebecca, 5000 haddock, 1100 cod, 300 pollock.
 - Sch. Washakie, 4000 haddock, 500 cod.
 - Sch. Victor and Ethan, 6000 haddock, 1500 cod, 2000 hake.
 - Sch. Lillian, 32,000 haddock, 22,000 cod, 12,000 hake.
 - Sch. Olive F. Hutchins, 4500 haddock, 3000 cod, 5000 hake, 2000 pollock.
 - Sch. Maud F. Silva, 1000 haddock, 2800 cod, 3000 hake.
- Haddock, \$3.50 to \$4.25 per cwt; large cod, \$3.10 to \$3.75; market cod, \$2.30 to \$2.50; pollock, \$2.60 to \$2.75; hake, \$2.60 to \$5; cusk, \$2.25.

ANCHOR CAUGHT MOORING STONE.

Crew of Sch. James and Esther Unable to Pull Up Ground Tackle.

The fishing schooner James and Esther was towed to T wharf yesterday afternoon from the lower harbor by the tug Pallas, and Capt. Fred Ford of the tug said that the two-masted fishing vessel towed harder than any big six sticker, coal laden, he had ever passed a towing hawser to. The reason for Capt. Ford's observations as to hard towing was the fact that fast to the anchor of the schooner was 10 tons or so of granite and chain, intended by Uncle Sam to hold a buoy amid the winter ice of the Narrows.

Sch. James and Esther, Capt. O'Neil, anchored inside of Bug Light yesterday to wait for a tug, to tow her up against the head wind. When the tug came alongside, an attempt was made to break out her mud hook, and although the entire crew hauled and puffed they could not bring home the ground tackle. The anchor road was made fast short up, and when the tide lifted the obstruction off the bottom, the Pallas started for the city with her tow.

On arrival at T wharf the wrecking tug Susie D., with much work, freed the anchor of the schooner and steamed away with a five-foot chunk of granite and 10 fathom of iron chain hanging from the end of her derrick boom. The tug was listed 30 degrees by the weight of the catch made by the fisherman.

Halifax Fish Notes.

Groundfish landings last week, including receipts at Hawkesburg and Canso branches, totalled 386,000 pounds. The two steam trawlers operating from Canso had not secured the average catches of previous weeks, owing to unfavorable weather conditions, according to latest reports.

Rail and express shipments were about an average of two carloads a day during the week, except at the end of the week, when they were larger, special facilities being now provided for an all-round improvement, both as to quicker transit and immediate distribution at points in the interior.

Latest advices from leading markets on either side of the Atlantic indicate active demand in most of the ports, especially in prime large and medium. The position in pickled fish, both mackerel and herring is on similar lines, and ruling quotations show that prices generally are on a higher level than for many years.

Cutter Woodbury Saved Vessel.

That the cutter Woodbury, oldest of the vessels in the revenue cutter service, has not out-lived her usefulness despite her 54 years, was shown last night when she arrived at Rockland with the Stonington, Conn., schooner Alice P. Turner, which she had saved from the rocky ledges at York's Narrows, near Stonington, in Penobscot bay.

The rescue was effected late Wednesday night during a blinding snow storm, which made the work of the Woodbury's bluejackets doubly difficult.

The Turner ran aground Wednesday and was pounding badly when the Woodbury appeared. To prevent the schooner being driven farther back on the rocks, the Woodbury's men made lines fast to kedge anchors, and at high tide last night, after much pulling, the Turner again slid into clear water.

PACIFIC HALIBUT AND HERRING.

Interesting Batch of News From the Alaska Fisheries.

The Fishing Gazette publishes the following interesting batch of Pacific halibut fishery news from its Petersburg, Alaska, correspondent:

Halibuting is again a paying proposition. The fishermen who for eight or ten days tied up owing to low prices have baited and sailed. Late cables and wireless reports from Seattle put halibut at 5 1-2 cents, with a prospect of the market advancing, if cold weather continues.

The halibut men fishing out of Wrangell Narrows state that the fish shipped during November, excepting the last five days of the month, netted only from two to two and one-half cents. Reports by brokers indicate that much of the halibut was undersized, soft, or "cooked" in transportation.

The demand for salt herring is something "fierce." Herring fishermen who quit and went halibuting (and got stuck) are now tearing great handfuls of hair out of their heads. The herring buyers are freely offering \$8.50 per barrel, Seattle, and nearly any size is accepted. Several of the Wrangell Narrows and Juneau schooners quit halibut and went after the herring with gill nets.

Herring, lightly dry salted in halibut boxes, are in splendid demand at \$55 a ton, Seattle.

Black cod is bringing almost halibut prices. The fishermen consider it more profitable to ship this than to use for bait.

Fresh bait, which is in fair supply, has advanced 50 cents a barrel. Quotations at Wrangell Narrows are: Fresh, \$2; salt, \$2.50. The demand for herring bait cured by its brine has ceased. The trade now demands that strong white brine be poured on the fish as soon as packed. Such bait is marked as mild-cured.

Several of the halibut captains state that they were offered contracts for Alaska fish this season. They are now "kicking" because they didn't accept. They state, however, that in view of the fact that the market is advancing, they would not accept contracts for winter, unless sky-high prices are made. One Puget Sound company has been trying to contract with a few of the schooners.

The eight-dory gasoline schooner Eddie has been making profitable trips of late. She has brought in, twice, 70,000 and 80,000 halibut in six-day trips.

GET GOOD CHECK FOR CHRISTMAS.

BOSTON FISH DEALERS PAYING HIGH PRICES TODAY AND SOME HAVE BIG FARES.

Even the last day before Christmas finds the T wharf dealers hungry for fish and paying fine big prices for all the 17 trips in the dock this morning. Two of the offshore fleet are in, sch. James W. Parker from the eastward and sch. Raymah from the southwest part of Georges, each with about 30,000 pounds of fish.

Capt. Hogan of the Raymah is evidently trying to make trips with the market boats, as he was in last Saturday from the same ground, with 40,000 pounds.

Sch. Pontiac, which has been fishing out around Menemsha Bight along with a few others of the market boats for some little time, and landing her fares at Portland, is back to her regular berth this morning, Capt. Nickerson evidently making up his mind to have Christmas at home. He reports that while he has been out that way he has landed 40,000 pounds of fresh fish, all haddock and cod, at Newport.

The crew of sch. Catherine D. Enos will have just the dandiest kind of a Christmas check coming to them, as that little craft has nothing less than 17,000 pounds of the newest kind of codfish and large cod are bringing \$4.

Sch. M. Madeleine has 13,000 pounds of cod, so her crew will also be in on the big joy checks. Sch. Rose Standish has 16,000 pounds of fresh fish, mostly haddock, but the other shore boats have small catches.

Haddock sold at \$3.85 to \$4.25 just think of that for the day before Christmas—large cod \$3.50 to \$4, hake the same old standard, \$3 to \$5, and pollock up again to \$3.

Boston Arrivals.

- The fares and prices in detail are:
- Sch. James W. Parker, 11,000 haddock, 10,000 cod, 5000 cusk.
 - Sch. Raymah, 25,000 haddock, 1500 cod.
 - Sch. Catherine D. Enos, 17,000 cod.
 - Sch. Priscilla, 5000 cod.
 - Sch. Manomet, 3500 haddock, 500 cod, 2000 hake.
 - Sch. Pontiac, 10,000 haddock, 1000 cod, 3000 hake.
 - Sch. Yankee, 1400 haddock, 200 cod, 200 pollock.
 - Sch. Rose Standish, 12,000 haddock, 900 cod, 3000 hake.
 - Sch. Matthew S. Greer, 4000 haddock, 700 cod, 5000 hake, 1000 cusk.
 - Sch. Mary B. Greer, 4000 haddock, 700 cod, 100 hake.
 - Sch. Galatea, 4500 haddock, 800 cod, 4000 hake.
 - Sch. A. C. Newhall, 4500 haddock, 300 cod, 400 hake.
 - Sch. Hattie F. Knowlton, 1500 haddock.
 - Sch. M. Madeleine, 13,000 cod.
 - Sch. Hobo, 2300 cod.
 - Sch. Mary Emerson, 2000 cod.
 - Sch. Massasoit, 5500 pollock.
- Haddock, \$3.85 to \$4.25 per cwt.; large cod, \$3.50 to \$4; market cod, \$2.25 to \$2.50; hake, \$3 to \$5; pollock, \$3.

Sold Shark for \$10.

Andrew Doane of the schooner Olive F. Hutchins was \$10 richer yesterday morning than the other members of the crew, but he earned it. Thursday morning while fishing off Boone Island, Doane found a big black shark on one of his trawls when he hauled in. The shark was full of fight, and Doane struggled with it for two hours before he stunned it with a club. The big fish nearly upset the boat in its struggles and knocked dozens of fish out. All the other men had got back to the schooner with their catches long before Doane had finished hauling his trawls, and Capt. Hutchins ran the schooner down to where he was. The shark measured 16 feet from the tip of the nose to the end of the tail, and weighed 375 pounds. Doane sold his catch for \$10 at T wharf.

Newfoundland Herring Conditions.

A few miles makes quite a difference in weather conditions on the Newfoundland treaty coast. Yesterday at Bonne Bay the day was fair and mild and some herring, with no sign of frost, while at Bay of Islands there was frost at Lark Harbor, while herring were scarce.

Sch. Ramona has arrived at Bonne Bay.